

Village of Empire Tree Committee Meeting

February 28, 2022

Minutes

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Present: Maggie Bacon, Ryan Buchler (agenda item one), March Dye, John Friend (agenda item one), Lee Mueller (Davey Tree Group via Zoom) and Derith Smith.

1. Grant Kick-off - Lee Mueller, Davey Tree Group

The scope of the grant is to take the work of the tree inventory and move the process of thoughtful planning for maintaining the village “forest” forward using industry standards as the basis for decision making. Two specific projects for the grant are:

- a. Creation of a Community Forestry Plan Program Outline. That will help the DPW, the Village Council and the Tree Committee set priorities related to tree maintenance and removal. In addition, the plan will help with determining the number of trees to plant and where to increase the Village “forest”. This will be a 3-5-page document that will use the current inventory as a guide. Lee Mueller, Davey Group, will draft an initial plan. The committee can change or add or delete. Some discussion occurred related to dangerous trees¹ and how they are identified in the inventory.
- b. Provide a hands-on training for interested committee members and residents. This training will focus on using industry standards in completing one or both of the following activities:
 - Tree Risk Assessment
 - Prioritize work (tree removal, pruning, remediation) beyond the condition of the tree

Anticipated Timeline:

Mid-April - Community Forestry Plan

May/June – Tree Risk Assessment Training

¹ This could be trees in wires or those that impact the public health.

Reminders:

Any and all work done related to tree maintenance should be reported to the Clerk or Deputy Clerk – both for grant timekeeping purposes and to update the tree inventory.

2. Planning for Community Planting

Tree Community Engagement Chair, March Dye, is planning for a Fall Community planting with ReLeaf. She will look into tree grant opportunities with DTE or Consumers to help offset the cost of trees.

Action Item: Dye would like an updated inventory list from the tree inventory. Deputy Clerk will provide.

Action Item: Dye will look into Spring tree grant opportunities and bring back to committee to forward to the Council.

3. Process for Tree Pruning and Tree Removal

The committee recommends a good start for prioritizing tree pruning to start with is to make all sidewalks passible. Dye offered to complete an inventory of locations.

Action Item: Dye to complete inventory of where trees may impede walkers and bring back to the committee.

Respectfully submitted

Maggie Bacon